

HB 1637 with HCA 1 -- COURSEWORK ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 3.

This bill requires graduates of two-year and four-year institutions of higher education located in Missouri to have successfully completed a three credit hour course in the freedom of speech.

HCA #1: This amendment allows freedom of speech education to be incorporated to an already existing course and removes the requirement of a separate three hour course.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help students to be knowledgeable citizens and better understand freedom of speech.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dohrman.

OPPONENTS: Opponents say that the fiscal note is incorrect and the bill misunderstands what public higher education is. It is not true for the note to say, because if students are paying tuition the cost is \$0. The required hours for graduation have increased over the years. We should reduce the required hours needed for graduation.

Testifying against the bill was Paul Wagner, Council On Public Higher Education.